

The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art  
The Irwin S. Chanin School of Architecture  
Anthony Vidler, Dean  
Last Accreditation Visit: 10-14 April 2010

### **Response to Section 1.4 Conditions Not Met**

#### Condition 8, Physical Resources

*"Despite significant improvements since the 2004 visit, the full scope of necessary improvements continues to be scheduled, but not completed. ... faculty office space remains an on-going concern." VTR 10-14 April 2010*

As an all-scholarship school, The Cooper Union's operating revenue was substantially affected by a decrease in its endowment, and spending for all non-essential projects has been put on hold.

Fully accessible lavatories to serve the School of Architecture classrooms and studios on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> floors of the Foundation Building have been designed and priced. Replacement hardware to meet ADA standards has been priced for all doors on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> floors. This total capital cost of approximately \$450,000.00 will be submitted to the Board of Trustees during this academic year for approval and implementation.

Currently, all full time faculty in the School of Architecture have private office space. Although the rooms are small (approximately 88 sq. ft.), and do not have natural light, they are located close to the studios and therefore are readily available for meetings with students. In addition, there are three shared but dedicated office spaces (two in the new academic building at 41 Cooper Square) for proportional time faculty and two small shared rooms for "drop in" use by approximately 30 other proportional and adjunct faculty (on the third floor of the Foundation Building). The Cooper Union's current strategic plan calls for the addition of 70,000 sq. ft. of academic space by 2012. It is unlikely that the School of Architecture will have access to any additional space for faculty offices before that time.

### **Response to Section 1.5 Causes of Concern**

#### Condition 13.6 Fundamental Skills

*"While the team determined that sufficient evidence is present to deem this condition met, they find cause for concern that [an engagement of non-urban sites] is not as thoroughly represented in the evidence as it might be." VTR 10-14 April 2010*

Given that the movement towards the urbanization of the world's population is expected to continue during the twenty first century, projects at the School of Architecture address issues of architecture in an urban context. Nonetheless, non-

urban sites are engaged in different studios, and students frequently choose non-urban sites for their Thesis projects. Currently, the program for ARCH 121 Design II is a detached house on a 90' x 90' lot. Students are exploring strategies for locating the house on the site in consideration of and in consultation with neighboring sites. Students seek to optimize the relationships between private space, public space and open space as well as light and view. Sites for current Thesis projects include a rural farmstead in Spain, an non-urban condition on the U.S./Mexico border, and the Dead Sea.